

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

A FLOCK OF BUZZARDS.

Mr. Paul Fry never formed a resolution more filled with practical good sense and knowledge of the world than that by which he bound himself never to do another good-natured action as long as he lived. The harmful effects of an act of kindness will follow a man further than the course of injured innocence. A person you have once befriended thinks he has in that way established a claim like that of the old Roman client upon his patron, with no resultant obligations. How often we saw men in the army who had been raised by dint of persistent worrying from private to brigadier turn against the administration with deep resentment because the double stars were withheld. Every public man is surrounded by a covey of shameless beggars whose demands continually increase with their gratification, whose greed grows by every extorted concession. The most precious hours of public men are monopolized and wasted by these pests, and so exasperating is the infliction that conscientious members are driven into such frantic attempts at escape as we saw in Mr. Trumbull's bill, which proposed to make it a penal offense for a Congressman to ask an office for any one. Washington long since became a place where, as Tennyson said of the world, "each man walks with his head in a cloud of petitions restricted themselves to the capital it would be bad enough. Life is not so long that one would wish to have half the year turned into purgatory even for two or three Congresses. But still it might be endured, just as fashionable people, with no ear, go to the opera, and Colonel Fisk, Jr., goes to his prayers—not because they enjoy it, but because it is due to Miss McPhimsey's position and Mr. Fisk's uniform. So a Congressman might make up his mind to accept the law-making. But these cormorants, when they dare, follow their victims over valley and mountain to the innermost retirement of their homes. There is no defense against them, except brutality, and that is not within the resources of your average politician. If the unfortunate patron falls under his annoyances, they watch him with the eye of a bird of prey. His health is convulsed with the anxiety of love or hate. They study his symptoms with the eagerness of an undertaker, and if his condition becomes serious they redouble their importunities. They would feel themselves bitterly defrauded if he slipped away to heaven and left them unprotected.

With all that we know of the habits of this species of creature, it did not seem credible that they should already have been besieging the bedside of the Vice-President. His frank and touching letter, published in the Tribune, left no doubt as to the real cause of his recent severe attack. He was used up, utterly worn out by the obsession of this horde of ravenous cormorants. He was struck down as a rude but kindly warning of nature that he could not longer abuse his powers with impunity. As soon as he could travel, he went home to seek an opportunity for convalescence in the society of his family. The nearest rudiments, not of good breeding, but of common humanity, demanded that his retreat should be respected. His weakness should have rendered him sacred, if his former kindness had kindled no spark of gratitude in his tormentors. But the South Bend Register is compelled to say—"Although the fact as to his illness has been so widely published, it has not materially diminished the applications that pour in on him constantly, as in the past made personally, too, as well as in writing—applications for offices, donations, for letters of indorsement, recommendation or introduction, to attend to Department business, to answer inquiries of all kinds. Persons have come hither from Chicago and other points during the past week with such unreasonable solicitations."

What can be done with men so utterly lost to all sense of decency? We think Mr. Colfax owes it to the public service to furnish to the respective departments a list of the persons who attack him for offices in South Bend. A man capable of the meanness of flinging from the Vice-President even one moment of his hours of convalescence, one particle of his slowly accumulating strength, to use it for his own selfish purposes, is not a person to trust in any position of responsibility or confidence.

POPULAR MADNESS.

The theory set forth by M. Francisque Sarcey to account for the horrible excesses which attended the brief deplorable civil war of the Commune in Paris has been treated both in England and in this country rather cavalierly. It seems to be taken for granted that poor M. Sarcey is merely trying to make out such a plea for his countrymen as has become dismally common of late years in the administration of criminal justice when he protests that the Parisians were really driven mad en masse by the successive shocks which they had received between June, 1870, and May, 1871.

But if one will be at the pains of reflecting a moment on the history of those awful months M. Sarcey's explanation of these results will cease, we think, to be considered a mere refuge of patriotic vanity exasperated by the contempt with which mankind to-day regards the people whom a year ago it esteemed "first among its peers." That a whole community should be affected with mental disease is no more improbable than that a whole people should be affected with physical disease. An epidemic of lunacy is antecedently as natural a phenomenon of human society as an epidemic of the plague or of the small-pox. History, too, records as many instances of the one kind as of the other. The religious manias of the Middle Ages, which took shape in such events as the terrible Crusade of the Children or the frenzy of the Flagellants, are familiar instances of this kind. The Anabaptists of Leyden and Munster perpetrated scandals and atrocities quite as dreadful in their way as those of the Commune or of the first French revolution, and no sensible person has ever doubted that they were driven on into these extravagances under the goad of a genuine epidemic madness.

No race or tribe of men can claim to have been exempt from this scourge. It is very well to sneer at the French people or at the Parisians as liable above all men to such attacks of contagious fury as on M. Sarcey's theory must be carried to the account of dementia. But they were not Frenchmen—they were Germans, who hardly thirty years ago suddenly poured out of their homes by the myriad and thronged to the ancient city of Treves, under a blind, pervading impulse

of feverish superstition, to worship what was called the "Holy Coat." And nothing in the recent catastrophes at Paris more clearly bears the marks of an ungodly mental and moral epidemic than did the mutual rage of the combatants in the long religious wars of the Reformation. Germans and Flemings, Spaniards and Walloons, Bohemians and Frenchmen, alike in those times proved themselves capable of gusts of barbarous rage only comparable to the mock-running of the Malays, or to those ancient fits of Berserk madness in which the Scandinavians recognized a power above man, and by man as irresistible as the tornado is irresistible by the trees of the forest. If we come nearer our own days we find the Paritans of New England in their persecution of witchcraft possessed with a contagious madness which led to results as cruel and as bloodthirsty, all things considered, as the worst deeds of the Commune. The murder of Archbishop Darboy and his innocent companions, horrible and detestable as it was, was not more horrible and detestable than the murder of Giles Corey. And if any Englishman imagines his own countrymen to be incapable of abandoning themselves under certain provocations to excesses as awful as those of the Commune, he will do well to open Charles Dickens' novel of "Barney Rudge," and to peruse therein the author's story of that ferocious outbreak against the Catholics which under the lead of crazy Lord George Gordon threatened London with destruction and the empire with anarchy for several days, no longer ago than in the year 1780.

The existence of such a thing as epidemic madness, it is easy to conceive of circumstances more likely to generate it than those through which Paris has passed during the last twelve months? Here was a city which had grown up during twenty years of peace and prosperity to consider itself and to be considered by others the capital of civilization. That it was the most beautiful city the world had ever seen was conceded on all hands. The pride of its inhabitants had been raised to the highest pitch by the admiration and homage of the whole of Christendom. They believed themselves, and they had much cause for believing themselves, the flower of a nation regarded as the first military power of the world. One after another the sovereigns of Europe had visited them. The Sultan himself had emerged from the awful mystery of the Ottoman power to pay his tribute in person to the prestige of the glory of France and of Paris. In a day, almost in an hour, all this fabric of splendor and of reputation was blown to atoms by the artillery of Germany. The siege of Paris by the Prussians may well have affected the people of Paris like some monstrous dream or nightmare. And while the possibility of such a reverse acted upon their minds like a possession, the actual material sufferings inflicted by it aggravated the disorder. Men were suddenly and violently thrown out of their ordinary habits and relations in life, out of their daily processes of thought, out of their daily diet even and walk and conversation. It is not easy for us to estimate the demoralizing effects upon a great metropolitan population of a sudden isolation from all its habitual communication with the outer world. The siege of Paris, as it were, threw two millions of people suddenly and violently back out of modern life into the middle ages. Perhaps New York or London might bear such a shock as this better than Paris did. But we should be loath to see either city subjected to the experiment.

After the siege had ended in a peace utterly crushing and humiliating to all that Paris felt and believed of herself, and of France, there came upon the unhappy city a series of governmental shocks and jars, mainly resulting from the incredible weakness and unworthiness of the official authorities of the nation. These ended finally, as we know, in the incoherent and immature enterprise of a most startling social and political experiment; and this again, after a fresh siege entailing new disasters, public and private, ended in the horrors of an armed capture of the capital. That the culmination of all these trials should for a time have unhinged the judgment, the moral sense, the courage, and the character of the community is surely neither surprising in itself nor need it hastily compel the conclusion that nothing is to be hoped hereafter, in calmer circumstances and under more propitious influences, of the community so smitten and shaken asunder.

WANTED—A DEMOCRATIC GRIEVANCE. From the N. Y. Times. It is exceedingly touching to observe the persistent fondness with which the Democratic journals cling to the Ku-klux bill as a basis for attack upon the present administration. They had pretty well exhausted the common missiles of falsehood, and the polysyllabic shafts of the World were, if possible, blunter than usual. The Government had obstinately reduced the taxes without hampering the revenue; the Alabama claims had got themselves in so far a way for settlement that neither the policy of the President nor that of Mr. Sumner was capable of charging an ordinary political squib. And as for the late amendments, they were fixed in the fundamental law, and not a corporal's guard of Republican voters could be induced to vote the Democratic ticket on the ground that they ought not to be there. At this juncture the late Mr. Vallandigham made the bright suggestion that it would be well to let all the old topics alone, "accept the situation" as completely as the nature of the average Democrat would admit, and open fire on the Ku-klux bill. The "conservative" press of New York—it likes to be called "conservative" for two reasons, first, because the name is not in nearly so bad odor as "Democratic," and second, because at heart it is not Democratic at all,—the conservative press hailed the suggestion as promising great relief.

The bill was a new bill. The people understood its object well enough, but not the details of its provisions. It was placed in a good deal of power in the hands of General Grant. And it would be much easier to make the public believe that it was everything wicked and dangerous than it would be to repeat the old arguments long since exploded, the old charges long since become disgusting. So the "conservative" press thought, and so it commenced to act. By liberal use of perversion and misrepresentation, it endeavored to show that the Ku-klux bill was a species of *coup d'etat*, which was preliminary to the appearance of General Grant as "The man on horseback with a naked sword," who was about to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, break up the courts, summon all inoffensive Democrats before drum-head courts-martial, and by violence and bloodshed pave the way to an imperial throne, from which he would issue edicts to an obedient Senate, dissolve the House of Representatives, and govern the country by means of satraps, principally selected from such of his male relations as he did not

marry to foreign princesses. By vigorous leading, the World worked itself into a very fair imitation of indignation over the terrible picture, and the "benevolent" press, as the World politely dubs its country contemporaries, followed suit as well as they could. They were all doomed, however, to encounter one very unexpected obstacle. The Ku-klux, without whom the bill must lose all its terrors, immediately on the proclamation by the President of his intention to enforce it to the letter, began to skulk into their hiding places. With an obtuseness of political insight that cannot be too severely condemned, they refused to surrender their blood as the seed of the Democratic church. However effective the application of the law to their cases might be, in firing the Northern and Southern breast against the authors of the law, it would leave them where they could derive but cold comfort from the triumph of the Democracy or any other earthly advantage, and they basely and ingloriously declined, however much their party might gain by it, to become corpses. Naturally, is discouraging to the political hacks who were laboring to make political capital out of the oppressive operation of the law. If no chance is to be given to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, if the innocent murderers and ruffians at whose personal rights under the Constitution the law was aimed, persistently kept out of its range, why it will be very hard work to keep up a very animated fire at the mere abstract letter of the law. The American people are a very busy set, and they have a great deal too much to do to waste time in arguing over an enactment which, if it is a dead letter through its very effectiveness, to restrain the liberties of no one, because all keep out of its way, and to lead to no abuse of power, because there is no occasion to exercise power under it.

We cannot undertake to help our Democratic contemporaries in this quandary. It all comes of being on the wrong side. They have lately seemed to have a realizing sense of this fact, and their last step was in the direction of a complete change. Perhaps they make take it into their heads to come all the way across, and it is probably the only means to relieve themselves of their present embarrassment. As for the change it would require in their attitude towards men and measures, that it is not worth a second thought, in the case of the World, at least, which eighteen months since denounced Mr. Tweed as a thief and a swindler, and now bedaubed with adulation everything about him, down to the very diamonds on his daughter's wedding shoes.

SPECIAL NOTICES. PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT. PHILADELPHIA, May 21, 1871. The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the capital stock of the Company, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash, on and after May 30, 1871.

Blank powers of attorney for collecting dividends can be had at the office of the company. The office will be open at 8 A. M., and close at 3 P. M., from May 30 to June 2, for the payment of dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. THOMAS T. FIRTH, Treasurer.

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JOUVIN'S KID GLOVE CLEANER restores soiled gloves equal to new. For sale by all druggists and fancy goods dealers. Price 25 cents per bottle. (1 1/2 m)

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FINANCIAL. JAY COOKE & CO. PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK and WASHINGTON. JAY COOKE, McCULLOCH & CO. LONDON, AND BANKERS Dealers in Government Securities. Special attention given to the Purchase and Sale of Bonds and Stocks on Commission, at the Board of Brokers in this and other cities. INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS. COLLECTIONS MADE ON ALL POINTS. GOLD AND SILVER BOUGHT AND SOLD. In connection with our London House we are now prepared to transact a general FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS, Including Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills, and the issue of Commercial Credits and Travellers' Circular Letters, available in any part of the world, and are thus enabled to receive GOLD ON DEPOSIT, and to allow four per cent. interest in currency thereon. Having direct telegraphic communication with both our New York and Washington Offices, we can offer superior facilities to our customers. RELIABLE RAILROAD BONDS FOR INVESTMENT. Pamphlets and full information given at our office, 5 3 1/2 m No. 114 S. Third Street, Philadelphia. ELLIOTT, COLLINS & CO., BANKERS, No. 109 South THIRD Street, MEMBERS OF STOCK AND GOLD EXCHANGES. DEALERS IN MERCANTILE PAPER, GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, GOLD, Etc. DRAW BILLS OF EXCHANGE ON THE UNION BANK OF LONDON. (3 1/2 m) IMPORTANT NOTICE. The STOCKHOLDERS of the PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD will do well to note that their privilege of subscribing to the new stock at par, in the proportion of one share for every six, as registered in their names April 30, WILL CEASE ON THURSDAY NEXT, the 22d instant. The subscription can be made by the payment of 50 per cent. before the 22d instant, and 50 per cent. between the 22d November and 22d December proximo, or the whole amount can be paid at once, thus securing the next November dividend. On receipt of instructions from our friends and customers, we will subscribe, WITHOUT CHANGE, for the amount of new stock to which they may be entitled. This they can result at any time, if unwilling to hold it, thus securing the difference between the subscription price and the market value of the stock at the time of selling. B. K. JAMISON & CO., Bankers, 6 19 St. THIRD and CHESTNUT Streets. FOR SALE. HANDSOME RESIDENCE, WEST PHILADELPHIA. No. 3248 CHESTNUT Street (Marble Terrace), THREE-STORY, WITH MANSARD ROOF, AND THREE-STORY DOUBLE BACK BUILDINGS. Sixteen rooms, all modern conveniences, gas, h. h., hot and cold water. Lot 15 feet front and 130 feet 2 inches deep to a back street. Immediate possession. Terms to suit purchaser. M. D. LIVENSETTER, 4 15 No. 129 SOUTH FOURTH STREET. FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE FOR SMALLER PROPERTIES. No. 1917 Chestnut street. No. 1408 North Broad street. No. 1418 North Eighteenth street. Lot, Broad and Vine streets, 75 by 200 feet. Lot, Broad street, above Thompson, 145 by 200 feet. Square of Ground, Broad and Diamond streets. Lot, Broad and Lehigh avenue, 145 feet deep. Lot, Broad and Summer street, 250 by 400 feet deep. Lot, Broad and Cambria streets, 100 by 225 feet deep. 93 acre Farm, Bucks county. 8 Cottages at Cape May. R. J. DOBBINS, "Ledger" Building. WEST PHILADELPHIA. THE NEW VERY HANDSOME AND CONVENIENT BROWN-STONE RESIDENCES, With Mansard roof, Nos. 422, 424, and 426 KING-ESSING Avenue, situated among the most costly improvements of this beautiful suburb. Horace cars pass each way within one square—each house contains all modern improvements, bath, hot and cold water, stationary washstands, toilet-cases, range, two furnaces, bay windows, etc., and is built upon more than 175 feet deep; the rear of the houses has an unobstructed outlook upon the MARKET PARK. WEST PHILADELPHIA. ABRAHAM BITTER, 6 21 m No. 626 WALNUT Street. TO RENT. FOR RENT, STORE, No. 339 MARKET Street. APPLY ON PREMISES. 4 29 m J. B. ELLISON & SONS. A DESIRABLE RESIDENCE TO LET ON Wayne street, Germantown, within five minutes' walk of Wayne Station; 5 rooms, hot and cold water and bath. Inquire at Bakery, No. 4541 MAIN STREET. 6 14 m FOR RENT—THE LARGE STOREHOUSE No. 313 MARKET Street, completely furnished with counters and shelving. Apply on the premises. 6 20 m GOAL. R. P. OWEN & CO., COAL DEALERS, FILBERT STREET WHARF, SCHUYLKILL. SNOODEN & RAU'S COAL DEPOT, CORNER OF DILLWYN and WILLOW Streets—Lehigh and Schuylkill COAL, prepared expressly for family use at the lowest cash prices. 1 1/2 m FURNITURE. JOSEPH H. CAMPION (late Moore & Campion), WILLIAM SMITH, RICHARD B. CAMPION, SMITH & CAMPION, Manufacturers of FINE FURNITURE, UPHOLSTERINGS, AND INTERIOR HOUSE DECORATIONS, No. 249 SOUTH THIRD STREET, Philadelphia. 2 1/2 m

FINANCIAL. BURLINGTON, CEDAR RAPIDS AND MINNESOTA RAILROAD. First Mortgage 7 Per Cent. Gold Bonds AT 90 and Accrued Interest in Currency. On a Completed Road, Free of U. S. Tax. This road is now in the driest season of the year earning more than 12 per cent. net on the amount of its mortgage obligations. Its 7 per cent. gold bonds are equal for security to Government or any railroad issue. They command a ready market, and we are prepared to buy and sell them at all times. No investment in the market possesses equal guarantees of safety, returns an equal percentage of interest. The Chicago Burlington, and Quincy has given a traffic guarantee, and obligates itself to invest in these bonds 20 per cent. of the gross earnings derived from all business from this road. This is sufficient indication of the estimate of this enterprise by the largest and most far-seeing corporation in the West. A limited quantity still for sale by HENRY CLEWS & CO., No. 22 WALL Street, New York. For sale in Philadelphia by De Haven & Bros., Elliott, Collins & Co., Townsend Whelan & Co., Barker Bros & Co., W. H. Shelmerdine & Co., and by Bankers and Brokers generally. 4 22 m 1/2 Stal The Six Per Cent. Loan OF THE City of Williamsport, Penna., Has been made by ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE A Legal Investment For Executors, Administrators, Trustees, etc. A limited amount is still for sale at 85 AND ACCRUED INTEREST, BY P. S. PETERSON & CO., No. 39 SOUTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA. JOHN S. RUSHTON & CO., BANKERS AND BROKERS, GOLD AND COUPONS WANTED, City Warrants BOUGHT AND SOLD. No. 50 South THIRD Street, PHILADELPHIA. SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF Stocks and Bonds, Here and in New York, and every facility furnished to parties desiring to have them carried. D. C. WHARTON SMITH & CO., BANKERS & BROKERS, No. 121 SOUTH THIRD STREET PHILADELPHIA. HARRISSON GRAMBO, BANKER, 530 WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA. (3 1/2 m)

FINANCIAL. JAY COOKE & CO. ARE NOW SELLING AT PAR, The First Mortgage Land Grant Gold Bonds OF THE Northern Pacific Railroad COMPANY, BEARING SEVEN AND THREE-TENTHS PER CENT. GOLD INTEREST, AND SECURED BY FIRST AND ONLY MORTGAGE ON THE ENTIRE ROAD AND EQUIPMENTS, AND ON MORE THAN 23,000 Acres of Land to every mile of track, or 500 Acres of Land to each \$1,000 Bond. There is no other security in the market more safe or so profitable. The highest current price will be paid for U. S. FIVE-TWENTIES, and all other marketable securities received in exchange. Pamphlets, Maps, and full information furnished on application. JAY COOKE & CO., Philadelphia, New York, Washington, FINANCIAL AGENTS NORTHERN PACIFIC R.R. CO. For sale in Philadelphia by BOWEN & FOX, No. 18 Merchants' Exchange, SEVENTH NATIONAL BANK, N. W. Cor. Fourth and Market streets. WM. FAINTER & CO., No. 25 S. Third Street. GLENN BUNNING, DAVIS & CO., No. 48 S. Third Street. TOWNSEND WHELAN & CO., No. 209 Walnut St. BULL & NORTH, No. 121 S. Third Street. T. A. BIDDLE & CO., No. 326 Walnut Street. D. C. WHARTON SMITH & CO., 121 S. Third Street. J. H. TROTTER, No. 322 Walnut Street. C. T. YERKES, JR. & CO., No. 20 S. Third Street. WM. T. ELBERT, No. 321 Walnut Street. S. M. PALMER & CO., No. 25 S. Third Street. D. M. ROBINSON & CO., No. 138 S. Third Street. SAMUEL WOKK, No. 24 S. Third Street. J. S. RICHMOND & CO., No. 119 S. Third Street. GRO. J. BOYD, No. 18 South Third Street. RALEY & WILSON, No. 41 S. Third Street. WALLACE & KEENE, No. 148 S. Third Street. H. H. WILTBANK, No. 395 Walnut Street. M. SCHULTZ & CO., No. 44 S. Third Street. WILLIAM C. MORGAN & CO., No. 23 S. Third St. MARK & LADNER, No. 30 S. Third Street. BLOREN & CO., No. 129 S. Third Street. JOHN R. WILDMAN, No. 25 S. Third Street. F. S. PETERSON & CO., No. 29 S. Third Street. BARKER, HERR & CO., No. 25 S. Third Street. JAMES E. LEWIS & CO., No. 29 S. Third Street. G. & W. Y. HEBERTSON, No. 23 S. Third Street. CHARLES B. KEENE, No. 25 S. Third Street. WILLIAM P. CARTER, No. 312 1/2 Walnut Street. W. H. SHELMEIDINE, No. 10 S. Third Street. JACOB R. HEDGWAY, No. 50 S. Third Street. MERRILL & FEALE, No. 12 S. Third Street. JOHN MOSS, JR., No. 206 Walnut Street. H. F. BACHMAN, No. 26 S. Third Street. 3 1/2 m

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